

Bay County Extension Council

Minutes
November 14, 2007

Date: November 14, 2007

Time: 5:20 p.m.

Place: MSU Extension Bay County, Third Floor, Large Conference Room

Members Present:

Mary Jo Brandt

Philip Engelhardt

Joyce Gavord

George Heron

Robert Kernstock

Marybeth Laisure

Lyle LeCronier

Doug Rise

Elaine Sobieray

Members Excused:

Bill Palmer

Ray VanDreissche

Others Present:

Ann Arnold, Extension Educator

Judy Delestowicz, Administrative Assistant

Jan Rise, Master Gardener Volunteer Program Coordinator

Jodi Schulz, 4H & Youth Development Extension Educator

Howard Wetters, County Extension Director

Robin Wiess, FCS Program Associate

INFORMATION PRESENTED AND DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Doug Rise, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. Minutes of the May 16, 2007, meeting were reviewed and approved. Howard Wetters asked to add to the agenda an additional presentation on Turning Point technology and upgrades to our large conference room. Under old business, revised bylaws language on lifetime membership and standing appointments for all 4-H council presidents to sit on Extension Council was approved.

Under new business, Ms. Robin Wiess, program associate, presented the Family Nutrition Program (FNP) to Council. Ms. Wiess provided information on current nutrition curriculum, target audience, allowable educational tools, and educational publications for review. USDA food pyramid, Eating Right is Basic (ERIB), Loving Your Family, Feeding Your Future are an example of credible tools. Some discussion centered around food stamps and WIC coupons, what can be purchased, what is a gap in a nutrition plan. MSU Extension's Family Nutrition Program also supports our local breastfeeding program. Ms. Wiess and Mr. Wetters listed off the many program sites and community partners to which this nutrition education is delivered, like the various school systems, client home visits, and various community groups.

Continuing under new business, council member reappointments were discussed. Members whose term expires in December 2007 are: Jeff Histed, Robert Kernstock, Marybeth Laisure, Michelle Lesniak, Bill Palmer, Elaine Sobieray, Barb Wishowski.

Ms. Mary Jo Brandt is the 2007 4-H Advisory Council president, whose term expires at the end of this year. Mr. Wetters asked Ms. Brandt if she would be interested in continuing to sit on Council, and she accepted.

Mr. Mike Meier is the newly elected president of the 4-H Advisory Council for 2008, he will fill the standing appointment position.

Mr. Bill Palmer could not attend this evening's meeting, but requested to stay on Council for another term.

Mr. Ray VanDriessche sent his regrets to continue on Extension Council due to other commitments.

Mr. Robert Kernstock and Ms. Elaine Sobieray, who are in attendance, also stated that they were not able to continue to serve on Council in 2008.

Mr. Jeff Histed, Ms. Michelle Lesniak, and Ms. Nina Suchy were not in attendance tonight and did not respond to MSU Extension's invitation to continue on Council.

MSU Extension will send action and thank you letters to those who cannot continue to serve: Jeff Histed, Robert Kernstock, Michelle Lesniak, Elaine Sobieray, Nina Suchy, and Ray VanDriessche.

The floor was opened to nominations for 2008 officers of chair, vice chair, and secretary.

Phil Engelhardt nominated Doug Rise for chair. No other nominations were received for the position of chair.

Doug Rise nominated Phil Engelhardt for secretary. No other nominations were received for the position of secretary.

George Heron nominated Marybeth Laisure for vice chair. No other nominations were received for the position of vice chair.

A vote was taken to close nominations at 5:50 p.m.

A post card will be sent out to Council with 2008 meeting dates before the January 2008 meeting.

Mr. Wetters shared the status on the open ANR Extension educator position, which is to be posted in spring 2008. Mr. Wetters will be acting ANR EE until the position is filled.

Mr. Wetters discussed a future covered horse arena, which are now being reviewed by a local study group. Some issues being studied are possible location on the fairgrounds, parking, ownership, usage, fund-raising, and cost recovery. There is much to plan before a proposal can come before the Bay County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Wetters provided Council with an update on Community and Economic Development activities. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program team facilitation throughout the 13 county region is still a large focus this winter. Another focus is working with community groups to promote Bay County as a "community for a lifetime." This is a type of designation, formerly known as Elder-friendly communities, will help local economic development.

Ms. Ann Arnold talked about Family Consumer Sciences program activities. She introduced the Healthy Toddler research project. She is very excited about this project's curriculum, which centers around nutrition and parenting. Ms. Arnold, Ms. Kimberly Langley, and Ms. Jan Rise are all part of the research collection team. The project runs for 24 months over three years. The Better Kid Care (BKC) program responsibility has expanded from two counties (Arenac and Bay) to four counties (Bay, Gratiot, Isabella, and Midland) for the 2007-2008 program year. There is no additional staff to cover these four counties, only Ms. Arnold and Ms. Wiess. Other MSU Extension Bay County FCS programs, like the breastfeeding peer counseling, nutrition education, and parenting curriculum are still in place in 2008.

Mr. Wetters presented ANR program activities over the summer. Ms. Rise and Mr. Wetters are working forward on reestablishing a viable farmers' market in Bay County. Some of the issues faced by the working group is stall prices and insurance, site location, and what day(s) to hold market on. At this time there are about 20 market vendors willing to start in spring 2008.

Ms. Jan Rise stated that the next Master Gardener class will start January 15, 2008, because of the good response. Master Gardener volunteers continue to work until the end of season on high profile projects like the Veterans' Memorial in Bay City and the I-75 MDOT rest stop in Linwood. The RSVP garden project did well this season, with over 4,000 lbs. of food collected, most distributed to community groups like Hidden Harvest.

Mr. Wetters followed with a status of MSU Extension Bay County's grants. All were approved FY 2007-2008 for approximately \$400M in total funding. Unfortunately,

Building Strong Families grant, a direct-service parenting education program, was lost on a MSU Extension state-wide basis. The loss of this program effected staffing at our local level and, sadly, we were not able fund Karen Parker, Family and Consumer Sciences program associate, into the new program year. Ms. Parker will be missed. Mr. Wetters continues to look for funding opportunities, with the hopes of bringing Ms. Parker back on staff.

Mr. Wetters provided a demonstration on our newest technology tool, Turning Point. Turning Point is a voting software and process that allows the ability to vote anonymously, compile those votes in real-time, and do result comparisons on the issue at hand. Mr. Wetters used Turning Point to “show off” the new computer, projector, and speaker system now in place in our large conference room.

Mr. Rise adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

ACTION TAKEN

- It was moved, supported, and carried to approve the May 16, 2007, meeting minutes.
- It was moved, supported, and carried to approve bylaws language changes.
- It was moved, supported, and carried to close nominations for 2008 officer positions.
- It was moved, supported, and carried to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

WHAT'S NEXT AND FOLLOW UP

- Election of 2008 officers

Prepared by J. Delestowicz